

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Wong for her courteous and congenial telephone interview with Applicants' representative on February 23, 2006.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are pending in the present application.

Claim 3 is canceled with this amendment.

Claim 1 is amended to recite specific non-ionic surfactants. Support in the specification is at page 4, lines 6-14.

Claim 1 is also amended to place a period at the end.

Claim 2 and 4 are amended to place the claims in idiomatic English.

Claims 5 and 6 are new. Support in the specification for new claims 5 and 6 is at page 4, lines 15 and 16.

The specification at page 2, line 28 to correct a typographical error.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities.

At page 2, line 28 the word "high" is corrected to the word "highly".

The expression "eq/L" is not unclear. It is well known in the art that it means equivalence per liter. It is an expression of concentration.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of the disclosure.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 in line 5 did not have a period. Claim 1 has been amended to place a period at the end.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP7138782. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 3 is canceled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claim 3 is moot.

In order for a document to render a claim obvious, it must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim. *In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970) ("All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art"). JP7138782 ('782) does not teach or suggest an electrolyte tin-plating solution, having a pH of 1.5-6.0 and comprising: (1) 5-60 g/L of tin(II) ion, (2) a complexing agent, (3) one or more non-

ionic surfactants chosen from polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene glycol with an average of 10 units of ethylene oxide and an average of 4 units of propylene oxide and polyoxyethylene nonyl phenyl ether with an average of 9 units of ethylene oxide, and (4) 0.01-0.5 g/L of bismuth (III) ion (claim 1). No where does the '782 document provide any reason of motivation to include the specific non-ionic surfactants recited in claim 1 in a tin-plating solution. The '782 document is totally silent on such non-ionic surfactants. Such surfactants provide a uniform appearance of the plating film (specification, page 4, lines 6-7).

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP7138782.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP7138782 as applied to claims 1-3 above. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is patentable over JP7138782 for the same reasons as claim 1. JP7138782 does not teach or suggest the specific non-ionic surfactants recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP7138782.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,500,327 to Saitoh et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 3 is canceled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to this claim is moot.

In order for a document to render a claimed invention obvious, the document must teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim. *In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970) ("All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art"). Saitoh et al. do not teach or suggest an electrolyte tin-plating solution, having a pH value of 1.5-6.0 and comprising: (1) 5-60 g/L of tin (II) ion, (2) a complexing agent, (3) one or more non-ionic surfactants chosen from polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene glycol with an average of 10 units of ethylene oxide and an average of 4 units of propylene oxide and polyoxyethylene nonyl phenyl ether with an average of 9 units of ethylene oxide, and (4) 0.01-0.5 g/L of bismuth (III) ion (claim 1). No where does Saitoh et al. teach or suggest the specific non-ionic surfactants recited in claim 1. Further, Saitoh et al. also do not

teach or suggest that such non-ionic surfactants provide a uniform appearance of the plating film (specification, page 4, lines 6-7).

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 6,500,327 to Saitoh et al.

Claim 4, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,500,327 to Saitoh et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

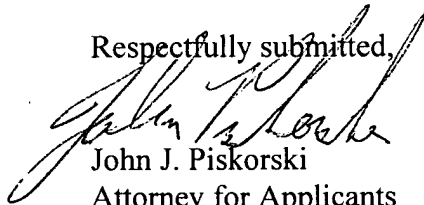
Claim 4 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over Saitoh et al. for the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,500,327 to Saitoh et al.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response or this application, or should she believe this application is for any reason not yet in condition for allowance, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below in order to expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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